

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00674 081037Z

15
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
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P 080930Z AUG 75
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3490
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

S E C R E T ASMARA 0674

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS ET
SUBJECT: CISCO TWO

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 9463 B. KHARTOUM 1804 C. ASMARA 0645
D. ASK 3837 E. ADDIS ABABA 9323 F. ASMARA 0659
G. ASMARA 0593

1. CONGEN FINDS OSMAN SALEH SABBEH STATEMENT, REPORTED REF A, BOTH CREDIBLE AND ENCOURAGING, ALTHOUGH MORE IN CONTEXT INSURGENT POLICY TOWARD US AND AMERICANS IN GENERAL THAN IMMEDIATELY IN CISCO TWO CASE. SABBE STATEMENT TENDS TO REINFORCE EARLIER CONGEN INFORMATION TO EFFECT THAT PLF HAS NEVER UTILIZED KIDNAPPING OR EXTORTION, AS HAS ELF, AS MEANS OF FUNDING ITS ACTIVITIES. FOREIGN SUPPORTERS OF PLF HAVE, ACCORDING TO LOCAL SOURCES, GENERALLY PROVIDED ENOUGH CASH, IN ADDITION TO ARMS, FOOD, AND OTHER SUPPLIES, TO ENABLE PLF TO MEET ITS EXPENSES. THIS HAS NOT, IT APPEARS, BEEN TRUE OF THE ELF WHICH, BEING FAR MORE LOOSELY ORGANIZED AND DISPERSED, AND APPARENTLY WITH MORE PARSIMONIOUS FOREIGN SUPPORTERS, HAS HAD TO RESORT TO OTHER TACTICS TO RAISE CASH.

2. I YESTERDAY AGAIN QUESTIONED LOCAL EMPLOYEE AT TRACT D WHO AGAIN INSISTED THAT GUNMAN ON DAY OF ABDUCTION DEFINITELY ANNOUNCED, IN TIGRINYA, THAT HE REPRESENTED PLF. NEVERTHELESS,

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BELIEVE WE HAVE ENOUGH COLLATERAL EVIDENCE (REFS A, B AND C)

TO BE ABLE NOW TO ASSUME IT WAS, IN FACT, ELF WHICH EFFECTED ABDUCTION.

3. AS FOR AHMED NASSER COMMENTS ON REASONS FOR ABDUCTION, REPORTED REF D, CONGEN CANNOT BUT REGARD THESE AS REPRESENTING PERSONAL VIEWS OF NASSER HIMSELF. IF HE DOES NOT KNOW WHICH UNIT HOLDING COSCO TWO OR WHERE THEY ARE, AND IF HE CANNOT COMMUNICATE WITH ELF FIELD UNITS, HE CAN SCARCELY BE PRIVY TO ACTUAL MOTIVATION BEHIND GIVEN UNIT'S ACTION. HOWEVER, WHATEVER THE TRUE REASONS FOR THE ABDUCTION, OR DISAPPEARANCE, I AM INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE EXTERNAL ELF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WILL ATTEMPT TO CAPITALIZE ON EVENT AND USE IT AS BASIS FOR POLITICAL DEMANDS UNLESS UNIT INVOLVED RELEASES CISCO TWO ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE.

4. NO RPT NO RANSOM DEMANDS (PARA 2 REF A) AS YET MADE TO ANY KAGNEW ELEMENT OR TO CONGEN.

5. AS REPORTED REFS F AND G, I BELIEVE PRESENT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS ADEQUATE AND HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT REQUESTING ADDITIONAL PROTECTION FOR ANY KAGNEW SITES OR CONGEN UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WILL, OF COURSE, BE PREPARED TO REVIEW THIS QUESTION WITH DCM TIENKEN DURING HIS VISIT NEXT WEEK TO ASMARA, AS SUGGESTED REF E.
SHERRY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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